

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

GLEN CRAIG,

Plaintiff,

- against -

GENIUS MEDIA GROUP, INC.

Defendant.

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Glen Craig (“Craig” or “Plaintiff”) by and through his undersigned counsel, as and for his Complaint against Defendant Genius Media Group, LLC, (“Genius” or “Defendant”) hereby alleges as follows:

**NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. This is an action for copyright infringement under Section 501 of the Copyright Act. This action arises out of Defendant’s unauthorized reproduction and public display of a copyrighted photograph of rock band The Stooges, owned and registered by Craig, a New York City based photojournalist. Accordingly, Craig seeks monetary relief under the Copyright Act of the United States, as amended, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2. This claim arises under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*, and this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

3. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant resides in and/or are doing business in New York.

4. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

## **PARTIES**

5. Craig is a professional photojournalist in the business of licensing his photographs to online, print, and television stations for a fee, having a usual place of business at 30-60 Crescent Street, Apt. 2C, Astoria, New York 11102. Craig's photographs have appeared in many publications around the United States.

6. Upon information and belief, Genius is a foreign business corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a place of business at 92 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Brooklyn, New York 11231. Upon information and belief, Genius is registered with the New York Department of State, Division of Corporations to do business in the State of New York. At all times material hereto, Genius has owned and operated a website at the URL: [www.genius.com](http://www.genius.com) (the "Website").

## **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

### **A. Background and Plaintiff's Ownership of the Photograph**

7. Craig photographed the rock band the Stooges (the "Photograph"). A true and correct copy of the Photograph is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

8. The Photograph is on display at the Morrison Hotel Gallery in Los Angeles.

9. Craig is the author of the Photograph and has at all times been the sole owner of all right, title and interest in and to the Photograph, including the copyright thereto.

10. The Photograph was registered with the United States Copyright Office and was given Copyright Registration Number VAu 001-205-736.

### **B. Defendant's Infringing Activities**

11. Upon information and belief, Genius displays a page on the Website featuring the lyrics to the Stooges song "*No Fun*". See <https://genius.com/The-stooges-no-fun-lyrics>. The

webpage prominently featured the Photograph. A true and correct copy of the article is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

12. Genius did not license the Photograph from Plaintiff for its webpage, nor did Genius have Plaintiff's permission or consent to publish the Photograph on its Website.

**CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT AGAINST GENIUS)**  
**(17 U.S.C. §§ 106, 501)**

13. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1-12 above.

14. Genius infringed Plaintiff's copyright in the Photograph by reproducing and publicly displaying the Photograph on the Website. Genius is not, and has never been, licensed or otherwise authorized to reproduce, publically display, distribute and/or use the Photograph.

15. The acts of Defendant complained of herein constitute infringement of Plaintiff's copyright and exclusive rights under copyright in violation of Sections 106 and 501 of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§ 106 and 501.

16. Upon information and belief, the foregoing acts of infringement by Genius have been willful, intentional, and purposeful, in disregard of and indifference to Plaintiff's rights.

17. As a direct and proximate cause of the infringement by the Defendant of Plaintiff's copyright and exclusive rights under copyright, Plaintiff is entitled to damages and defendant's profits pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b) for the infringement.

18. Defendant's conduct, described above, is causing, and unless enjoined and restrained by this Court, will continue to cause Plaintiff irreparable injury that cannot be fully compensated by or measured in money damages. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment as follows:

1. That Defendant Genius be adjudged to have infringed upon Plaintiff's copyrights in the Photograph in violation of 17 U.S.C §§ 106 and 501;
2. Plaintiff be awarded either: a) Plaintiff's actual damages and Defendant's profits, gains or advantages of any kind attributable to Defendant's infringement of Plaintiff's Photographs; or b) alternatively, statutory damages of up to \$150,000 per copyrighted work infringed pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504;
3. That Defendant be required to account for all profits, income, receipts, or other benefits derived by Defendant as a result of its unlawful conduct;
4. That Plaintiff be awarded his costs, expenses and attorneys' fees pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(b);
5. That Plaintiff be awarded pre-judgment interest; and
6. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b).

Dated: Valley Stream, New York  
February 21, 2017

LIEBOWITZ LAW FIRM, PLLC

By: /s/Richard Liebowitz  
Richard P. Liebowitz  
11 Sunrise Plaza, Suite 305  
Valley Stream, NY 11580  
Tel: (516) 233-1660  
RL@LiebowitzLawFirm.com

*Attorneys for Plaintiff Glen Craig*